

Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application.

Claim 1 (previously presented): A system for assisting a user with configuration management comprising:

an object-oriented database management system containing a plurality of configuration items;

said object-oriented database management system having an ability for making changes to a predetermined configuration item of said plurality of configuration items;

a copy of said predetermined configuration item is disposed in said object-oriented database management system, in response to a direct user intervention;

disposed in the object-oriented database management system, a copy of each object which directly and by ownership through another owner, owns said predetermined configuration item;

a shared ownership of other configuration items which have not been modified themselves and which are owned by said predetermined configuration item;

wherein every object in said object-oriented database management system has as a component thereof a list of owners of said object.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (previously presented): A system of claim 1 wherein each element of said list includes a context characteristic for an owner of said object.

Claim 4 (original): A system of claim 3 further includes reference relationships from a first object to a second object, which includes a context characteristic on an ownership characteristic of said second object.

Claim 5 (original): A system of claim 1 further including:

a shared ownership of other configuration items which have not been modified themselves and which are owned by each object which directly and by ownership through another owner, owns said predetermined configuration item; and,

a workspace for making changes to said plurality of configuration items in isolation.

Claim 6 (original): A system of claim 5 wherein the workspace contains said copy of said predetermined configuration item and a copy of each object which directly and by ownership through another owner, owns said predetermined configuration item.

Claim 7 (original): A system of claim 6 wherein said shared ownership extends from inside said workspace to outside of said workspace, through the use of ownership lists for each item outside of the workspace which is owned by items in the workspace.

Claims 8-19 (cancelled)

Claim 20 (previously presented): A system comprising:

an ODBMS having a plurality of configuration items therein, wherein said each of said plurality of configuration items is an object and includes engineering information relating to a predetermined engineering design;

said ODBMS having an ability for making changes to a predetermined configuration item of said plurality of configuration items;

a copy of said predetermined configuration item is disposed in said object-oriented database management system, in response to a direct user intervention;

disposed in the ODBMS, a copy of each object which directly and by ownership through another owner, owns said predetermined configuration item;

a shared ownership of other configuration items which are owned by said predetermined configuration item;

wherein every object in said object-oriented database management system has as a component thereof a list of owners of said object;

wherein said list of owners is capable of including multiple owners;

wherein each element of said list includes a context characteristic for an owner of said object;

reference relationships from a first object to a second object which includes a context characteristic on an ownership characteristic of said second object;

a workspace for making changes to said plurality of configuration items in isolation;

wherein the workspace contains said copy of said predetermined configuration item and a copy of each object which directly and by ownership through another owner, owns said predetermined configuration item; and,

wherein said shared ownership extends from inside said workspace to outside of said workspace, through the use of ownership lists for each item outside of the workspace which is owned by items in the workspace.